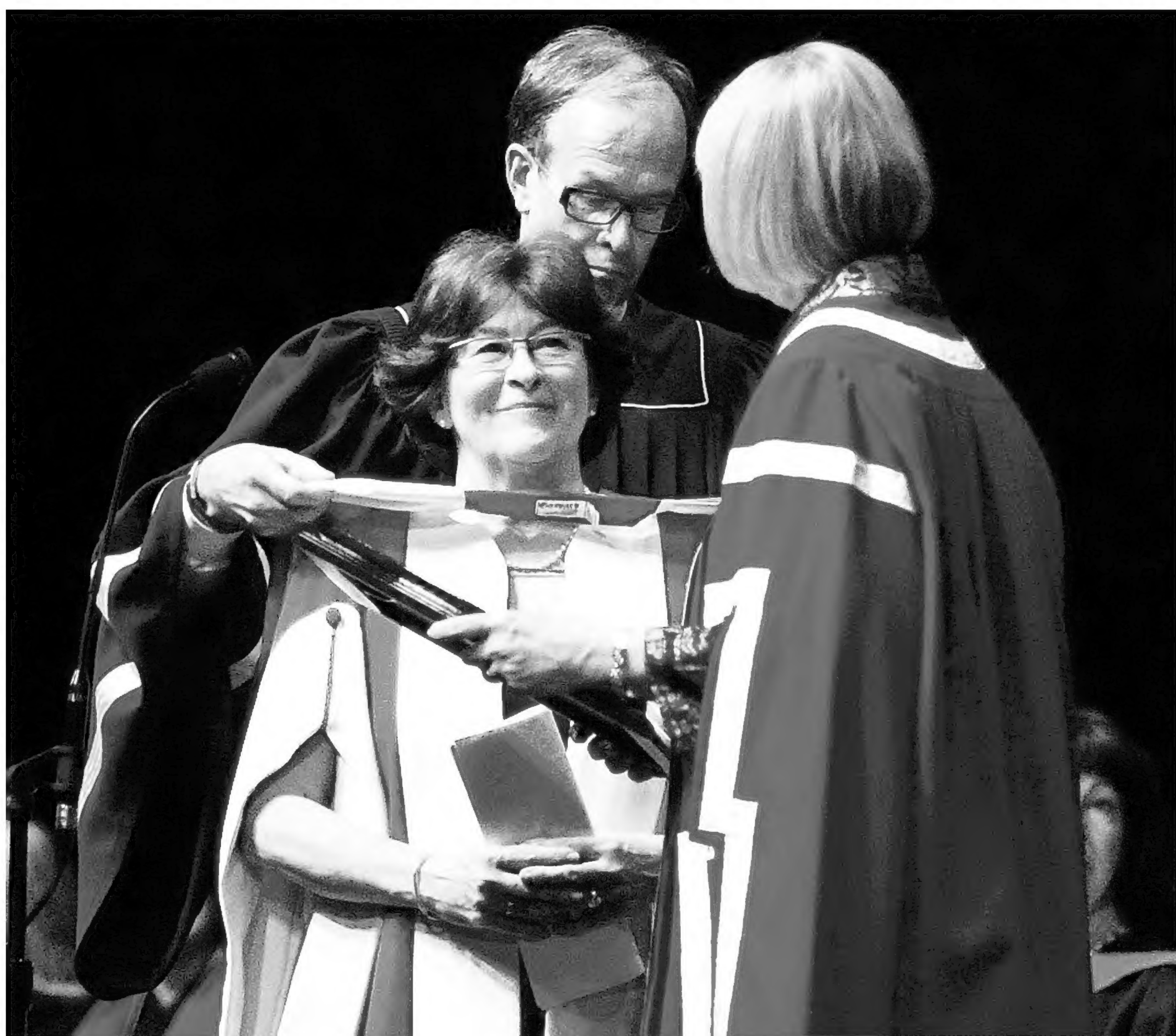


THE GATEWAY

volume C summer issue 2 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 4 june, 2009



PETE YEE

GUEST OF HONOUR Louise Arbour receives her Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Vice-Provost and University Registrar Gerry Kendall. Arbour is the first of twelve individuals receiving an honorary degree throughout convocation. She has served as the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, and will soon be CEO of the International Crisis Group.

Failed Universiade bid delays South Campus

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Construction of sports facilities and residences on South Campus will move ahead despite the loss of an estimated \$465 million in funding as a result of the city's failed Universiade bid.

The loss, however, will likely have an exacerbating effect on the project timeline, as the University's administration seeks out alternative sources of funding for the projects.

"We've gone to our proverbial plan B," said Don Hickey University Vice President (Facilities and Operations.) "A project like this remains a high priority for the University."

Before the Universiade bid came to public prominence, many future construction projects associated with South Campus had still been a concrete portion of the U of A's over-arching South Campus development plan. It's likely that the only alteration made to the structure of any projects will be a potential increase in the phasing of residences built in the area.

"The potential of hosting the Universiade was a definite way to advance the projects that we already

needed, but nothing was put forward that was dependent solely on the bid," Hickey explained.

Administration is currently looking to the Students' Union for partnership in the project, and has established construction on facilities as capital priorities for the U of A.

"If we look across Canada, there's been real growth in terms of creating opportunities for students to be engaged in physical activities and wellness programs," said Mike Mahon, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.

"This is a trend that students are interested in. Our goal is still trying to meet student demand for these kinds of facilities."

Of chief concern for Mahon at the moment is the well-being of a new basketball and volleyball facility, the Go Centre. \$20 million has already been invested in construction by the Go Centre Foundation. And land allocation—the University's primary commitment to its construction—has already been satisfied. Also affected could be a new physical activity and health centre for main campus.

PLEASE SEE **BID** ♦ PAGE 3

New nanotech compound to aid in mercury clean-up

BETH STORHEIM
News Writer

A team of scientists at the University of Alberta has developed a new composite material that may have a variety of environmentally beneficial uses.

The minuscule particles, called magnetic zeolite composite, could help in the decontamination of infested water, and the reduction or elimination of atmospheric mercury pollution from coal-burning chimney flues.

Elemental mercury vapour is a danger to the environment and people because it can circulate in the atmosphere for several years, where it can pollute the water cycle and soil, leading ultimately to the contamination of the food supply.

"We [want to] remove the mercury before it gets into the atmosphere. One way is to make materials that can grab the mercury from the flue gas before the flue gas goes out of the stack," said Dr Zhenghe Xu, Professor of Chemical and Materials Engineering, and Canada Research Chair in Mineral Processing at the U of A.

The nano-composites, roughly two years in development, contain a combination of silver and naturally absorptive minerals condensed with a thin

silica coating that are bound together and magnetized, Xu explained.

"We know that silver is very good for amalgamating mercury. So if we put the silver on the zeolite, we know that it will have the [ability] to grab the mercury from the flue gas," he said.

Xu added that silver, due to its cost, is recycled using magnets to draw them from the ash.

The new method of extracting mercury from flue gases has an advantage over other methods because each component can be separated and kept for future use.

"You can heat up the [mercury-loaded] sorbent, and the mercury will be condensed. The magnetic sorbent can be recycled," Xu said.

If the mercury and sorbents aren't separated from the flue ash, then the ash becomes a hazardous waste that is costly to dispose of, and creates a needless waste of materials that may otherwise be reused.

"Silver is expensive. We have to recycle and regenerate it, and use a method to isolate the silver from the [zeolite ash] We can use magnets to pick up [the silver], and then you have clean ash which can still be used for the concrete and cement industry," Xu said.

PLEASE SEE **MERCURY** ♦ PAGE 2

U of A Prof takes break from LHC

Physicist travelling to talk about antimatter and mysterious 'God' particle

SIMON YACKULIC
News Staff

University of Alberta physics professor Roger Moore has a lot to be excited about in the upcoming year. He's one of a number of researchers at the U of A who will soon be grappling with, and making sense of results from what could be the most important scientific undertaking so far this millennium: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) project.

While the Swiss-based LHC was expected to maintain operations after successfully starting up early last September, an unexpected magnetic failure triggered disappointment and caused it to be shut down soon after it was turned on; it has been undergoing upgrades and repairs ever since. It's planned to be switched on again this fall.

Once the collider is repaired, Moore will be involved in analyzing the data and trying to extrapolate results that could have major implications.

"What I'm looking for are two things," the associate professor detailed. "One, something called 'supersymmetry,' which is a possible sort of symmetry between force and matter. It may be that at very high energies; force and matter are in fact



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

SUBATOMIC LEVEL Roger Moore believes that the Large Hadron Collider will answer many fundamental questions that still linger about the Standard Model

pretty much the same."

If the experiments do provide indications of supersymmetry, Moore may find his second goal more attainable: an explanation of dark matter. Moore explains that while dark matter is affected by gravity, it is not made up of atoms, unlike ordinary matter.

"This dark matter that we see in the universe must have been created in the Big Bang. And in the Big Bang, very

early on, all the stuff in the universe was banging together at very, very high energies," Moore explained.

"We're recreating those energies in the LHC [...] If we're banging them together hard enough, then we would be creating the dark matter in exactly the same way as the universe created the dark matter very, very early on, just after the Big Bang."

PLEASE SEE **LHC** ♦ PAGE 3

Inside

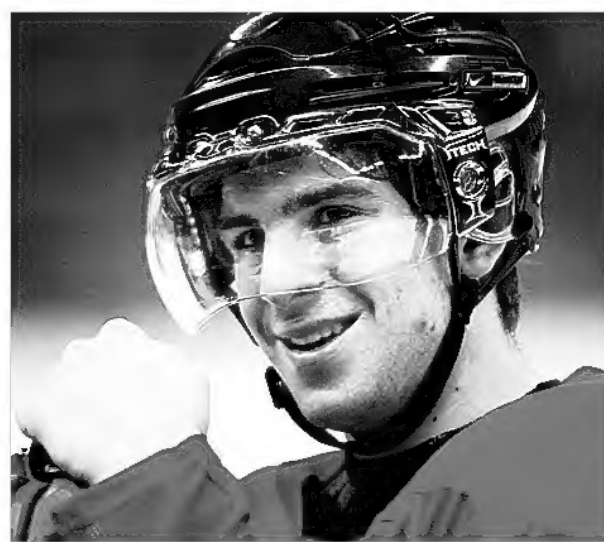
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Money for walking

The Gateway team lays down the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life experience step-by-step.

FEATURE, PAGE 6



And picks for free

Nick Frost and John Keohane throw down over who the New York Islanders should take first overall.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The *Manitoban* is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are *Tetris* and *Bioshock*.

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Robin Collum, Sarah Malik, Edmon Rotea, Beth Storheim, Simon Yackulic, Lance Mudryk, Evan Mudryk, Scott Lilwall, Ross Vincent, Ross Lockwood, John Keohane, Jason Luk, Cody Civiero, Mike Chafe, Lauren Stieglitz, Sam Brooks, Stu Trebleco

“

We hid away in the forest and were lectured to by the outgoing exec.

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Sean Steels

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 June, where free food will be provided for all attendees.

Summer meetings have occurred on 4, 12, and 26 May, allowing the newly sitting councillors and SU executive to start to learn the ins and outs of life in student government and run through their standing orders. The following accounts for the important decisions made throughout the first three meetings.

If you're interested in student government, stop by the next meeting, and watch democracy in action.

QUESTION PERIOD

Vice President (Operations & Finance) Zach Fentiman fielded multiple questions about the renovations occurring in the Students' Union Building (SUB) throughout the summer.

Fentiman explained that the SU was successful in a student engagement proposal that will offer approximately \$200 000 to the student engagement initiative, paving the way for renovations to the Student Groups Offices in the lower level of SUB. Currently, the lounge has been painted and carpeted.

Also in the lower level of SUB, InfoLink will be removed from the area to make room for the new Health Plan Office. Renovations on the remaining areas, such as the chaplain's office, Safewalk, Campus Foodbank and the Student Distress Centre will likely be affected by construction throughout the summer.

Fentiman also went into detail concerning summer renovations to RATT, detailing it with the use of a 3D model. Upgrades will include a combination of

booth seating and high level tables and chairs. Chairs will be rectangular for the purposes of group seating. Once completed, RATT will have more of a "sports lounge" than a "sports bar" feel. Sadly, the rat in RATT's logo will get the axe as part of the rebranding.

AN APPLE A DAY

Students' Union executives unanimously passed the University's new health plan, which passed by referendum last year with an 80 per cent majority. The new health and dental plan will cost \$192.34 and provide coverage to students from 1 September to 31 August each year.

Students not wishing to participate in the plan can take advantage of an unconditional, online opt-out. The plan is being provided through Student Care Networks.

SDS IN DISTRESS

The Support Network, a local organization that provides counselling and

volunteer services regarding distress and personal problems, has terminated their volunteer sharing agreement with the Student Distress Centre. In the past, The Support Network supplied volunteers to the SDC.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

Vice President (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman detailed a trip taken by himself, Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod and U of A representatives to examine physical activity facilities in anticipation of the future Physical Activity and Health Centre on U of A's campus.

Executives Fentiman and Dehod visited the University of California Los Angeles, the University of California Santa Barbara, and the University of California Irvine. The trip was originally planned as preparation for the Universiade bid, but the experience gained will now be applied to the long-term planning of U of A facilities.

Industry will set pace for production

MERCURY ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Other potential applications for this new material include use as a decontaminant in municipal water systems, and as a disinfectant in medical facilities. Xu is optimistic about future development, provided there is more interest and funding from corporations.

"It really depends on the initiatives of industry for test funding. It's very straightforward to synthesize, but to make larger volumes of, the University is not equipped for that. We have to have industry step in and help us," he said.

Xu developed the technology together with professors Jie Dong and Steven Kuznicki, and a team of graduate students.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

OFF-ROADING

On the evening of 31 May, Campus Security received a report of a vehicular collision on Saskatchewan Drive, just north of the Biological Sciences building. Officers arrived on scene, along with Edmonton Police, to find a Jeep resting on the courtyard of Bio Sci.

The driver of the Jeep was believed to be under the influence of drugs and was well known to police. He had apparently fallen asleep behind the wheel. His vehicle collided with a parked car on the side of the road, jumped over the curb, and tore two parking meters from their moorings before stopping. The Edmonton Police are still investigating. No individuals were injured in the incident.

THEY SEE ME ROLLIN', THEY HATIN'

Around 2am on 31 May, Campus Security received a report of a possible

impaired driver stunting in front of the Hudson's on campus. CSS attended, and the driver was observed making repeated passes in front of Hudson's squealing his tires. The driver was issued a 24-hour suspension and his vehicle was towed.

I DROPPED MY PENCIL?

Just after 1pm on 29 May, a female student reported a male was kneeling under her study cubicle in Rutherford library and caressing her legs. CSS attended the area immediately, but but were unable to locate the male. The male is described at Caucasian, at least 6 ft tall, in his 40s, with short, dark brown hair, and wearing jeans and dark colored shoes.

Campus Security is advising students to report any suspicious activity in the libraries immediately by calling 780-492-5050. The Edmonton Police were contacted regarding this incident and are investigating.

DOLTS FAIL TO FIND BOLTS

At 11am on 29 May, a staff member reported that two non-affiliated

youth were checking out bicycles in a suspicious manner at the racks just south of the General Services Building. Bike Unit members responded and followed the males as they surveyed bikes at Agriculture/Forestry and the National Resources Engineering Facility.

The males were eventually stopped for jaywalking on 116 Street. Officers searched their backpack, and uncovered a pair of bolt cutters. It was discovered that one of the males had also previously trespassed and was issued a summons. Both were directed off campus without further incident.

THE CYCLE OF THEFT

Since the beginning of May, 21 bicycles have been stolen across university campus. In all cases, the bike was either unsecured, or secured with a chain or cable lock (which can be easily cut). Campus Security recommends that all people with bikes secure them with a U-lock. Also, report any suspicious activity around the bike racks immediately to Campus Security by calling 780-492-5050.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by Sean Steels and Pete Yee



Dino Sabirovic
Engineering II



Gaelan Taylor
Chemical Engineering III



Ali Saltani
Masters Applied Sciences



Logan McCol
Psychology IV

Mostly religious things. I'm Muslim, so if they tried to put something else on my kid. That's all I can think of.

If they tried to tell my kid that it wasn't true Pikachu evolved into Raichu or that rare candy doesn't level up your Pokemon.

If they touched my kid sexually.

I wouldn't pull my kid out of class for any reasons. I think the bill is absurd and that teachers should be able to do anything they want—well, almost anything.

U of A chemist joins Royal Society

Researcher is among 44 scientists honoured by the prestigious scientific organization, recognized for his influential work on organic compounds

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

Counted among the ranks of the world's oldest scientific academy are Albert Einstein, Ernest Rutherford, Stephen Hawking, and now, as of this May, University of Alberta chemist, Dr John Vederas.

The Royal Society, based in London, England, admits 44 of the world's most prominent researchers every year that have made a notable contribution to the world's canon of scientific knowledge, including medical science, mathematics, and engineering science.

"It certainly is a great pleasure to be inducted into such exalted company," says Vederas, a professor in the U of A's Department of Chemistry. "I was very surprised, pleased, and honoured."

The portions of Vederas's research noted by the Society included his study of organic compounds, polyketides, useful for cholesterol reducing drugs. They also recognized his work with antibiotic peptides.

"Some of them are already approved for use in food, which greatly improve the safety of food in Canada and around the world," he explains. "They also show great potential for human therapy."

A ceremony for the new inductees will occur in July, during which each will talk briefly about their own research before signing the Society's register.

"There's a book made out of leather and parchment that you sign with a goose feather. In that book are the signatures of people like Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. So I think that is probably the highlight of the ceremony," Vederas laughs. "We're talking about quite a collection of the immortals of science. Certainly these people have changed the way we look at the world."

Candidacy for election into the



SUPPLIED

SHOULDERS OF GIANTS Vederas feels humbled to be part of the Royal Society

prestigious organization is dependant on the recommended nomination by at least two of its more than 1500 members.

"In the United Kingdom especially it's considered a very great honour. The shining light that comes down, as

"Alberta's not a scientific backwater. The work that is done there is recognized all around the world."

DR JOHN VEDERAS
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

it were," he says.

Vederas will be the sixth U of A scientist to be inducted, joining, among others, physicist Werner Israel and biochemistry professor Brian Sykes.

"Scientists study and research for the sake of learning and understand-

ing the world around us. They don't do it for the recognition or awards," Vederas says. "But recognitions and awards are the icing on the cake. And in some cases, they make people locally aware. Alberta's not a scientific backwater. The work that is done there is recognized all around the world."

Vederas has made a number of varied stops during his academic career. He earned his undergraduate chemistry degree at Stanford University, before earning his PhD in organic synthesis chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He also worked as a postdoctoral fellow in Switzerland, and eventually signed on at the U of A in July of 1977. He credits an enjoyment of the campus environment to his long tenure here.

"I have fantastic colleagues. They're great scientists, and they're stimulating and interesting to talk to. The students are great," he said. "I've had many opportunities to move elsewhere, but I've never been really tempted."

Expo 17 still a possible source for funding

BID ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In terms of new funding sources, administration has also expressed excitement about Edmonton's notice of intent to apply for Expo 17, otherwise known as the World's Fair, which will occur in 2017. The fair is a three-month long chance for countries from around the world to build pavilions and showcase their national identity as well as products and services.

Calgary announced its bid in a surprise move late last week, and is currently the only other Canadian city competing with Edmonton; official bids are due 30 November. If Edmonton is awarded the Fair, the

Federal Government will likely provide the city with funding comparable with Universiade propositions.

Additionally, the World's Fair has a long tradition of leaving notable infrastructure in its wake. Seattle's space needle, the Eiffel tower, and the Unisphere in Queens, New York are all left over from Expo events.

"It's not a CIS thing, but Expo is all about an opportunity to expand our international reputation as an institution, as a city, as a province," said Hickey, who also sat on the Edmonton Expo bid committee.

"You obviously have many housing needs that are a part of Expo, too, and in the end, we'd get the legacy of build-



FILE PHOTO: STU TREBLECO

LOOKING FORWARD Don Hickey is confident construction plans will move forward unimpeded

ings that could be turned into academic and research facilities."

Discovery of new particle may alter field

LHC ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While it can be difficult to pin down absolutes in the ever-shifting world of particle physics, Moore expressed confidence that the LHC will provide a definitive answer to the question of the existence of the "God" or the Higgs Boson particle. Though it is yet to be actually observed, its existence is predicted due to interactions between typical particles.

The current physics theory to explain matter and all the forces of

nature is termed the Standard Model, and due to interactions with other matter and forces, it hypothesizes that the Higgs Boson should exist. According to this interpretation, the particle is like a missing piece of a puzzle, and without it, the puzzle doesn't make a complete picture.

"It's a very elegant explanation, a solution, for one of the problems of the [Standard] Model we have, Moore said.

While the physicist declined to opine whether or not he thinks the

Higgs Boson will be identified, he pointed out that not seeing the particle would stir up the physics world.

"Are we going to catch it? Well, I don't know," Moore said. "In some ways it would be nice to find it. In other ways, it would be far more exciting to rule out its existence. If we don't see it, that means that all the theorists—all the theories that the theorists have been coming up with to explain all of the problems—are completely wrong."

BATBOY: MISUNDERSTOOD HALF-HUMAN OR BLOODTHIRSTY HALF-BAT?

Come out to 3-04 for summer news and the answers you crave.

THE GATEWAY

Hiding from the sun since 1910.



gateway student journalism society

The Gateway Student Journalism Society is seeking two student-at-large members for its board of directors effective immediately. Applicants should be undergraduate students who are not members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the University Board of Governors, or the University Senate.

The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors meets approximately once per month and is responsible for the overall direction of the society, but not for any element of the editorial content of the Gateway.

**Applications should be sent to
Gateway Business Manager Asia Szkudlarek at
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca on or before 10 July.**

**For more information, please contact the
Chair of the Board of Directors at gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca
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for you!***

ETS investment: fare and balanced?

FOR YEARS, EDMONTON TRANSIT SYSTEM (ETS) has taken its share of punches. Less late-night service than any other major city in Canada paired with less-than-ideal local route coverage are just a couple of the complaints a person might encounter while chugging down the road on one of ETS's 30-year-old diesel rigs.

That's why this week's announcement that the city will invest \$9 billion to expand Edmonton's Light Rail Transit (LRT) system is such sweet news to the ears of Edmontonians. I can only hope that it's a lesson in investment we take to heart.

While it might be easy to criticize ETS—I myself admit to having done so verbally and in print on a number of occasions—it's also easy to forget that our city faces a number of unique challenges when it comes to providing quick and efficient public transportation to its citizens. With near-endless prairie surrounding the North Saskatchewan River Valley, Edmonton has swollen to become a city with some of, if not the worst urban sprawl in the world, and while that might leave us with an amazing River Valley Park System and green scenery the city over, it's also placed outstanding stress on our bus fleet.

By expanding outward instead of upward, we've simultaneously denied ourselves the growth cushion urban densification provides, and accelerated demand for transit. The same pattern now typifies Calgary, our neighbours to the south. An LRT system that extends to the three corners of their city, in much the same way Edmonton has now committed to expanding, has been invaluable in relieving stress on Calgary's bus fleet and providing late night services. Truthfully, our investment in subterranean lines throughout the downtown core places Edmonton at an advantage, as Calgary is now being forced to consider how to submerge their lines to remedy traffic congestion.

And we mustn't forget that we are also the continent's "gateway to the north," which provides another source of funding woe: bad roads. In addition to being the most world's most disparate city, we're also the world's most northern city with a regional population over 1 million. The yearly stress on our roadways doesn't affect ETS service directly, but competition for civic funding is surely an obstacle.

The by-product of these factors is a city in which less people take care of *more* infrastructure that competes with more repairs for funding, ultimately making it far more tempting to drive five minutes than bus for half an hour. But we should also remember, too, that these problems are far from insurmountable. Vancouver deals with the constant erosion of salt water on their bus fleet and light rail system, yet the area has service that trumps our own in many ways. The answer is simple: investment.

I don't speak entirely of government investment, such as the one recently promised by Mayor Stephen Mandel. The investment of \$9 billion is dramatic and an excellent step in the right direction, even when tempered by the news of a 30-year timeline. For Edmonton's Transit and LRT systems, the real thirst for investment is from riders. Supply never falls that far from demand, and what separates Edmonton from Vancouver or even Calgary is an investment on the part of its people in a lifestyle that embraces public transportation—an investment we, as a collective, seem far from making. Symptomatic of our own disenchantment is a town in which we complain about bus service and watch an empty bus drive by from the seats of our cars.

Only by supporting our transit system with ridership in addition to tax dollars will that system gain the confidence and ability to expand and suit our needs. It's a definite leap of faith, but one that our city council has just proven is not half as scary as it looks.

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Silver is the new gold

BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT
Placed Susan Boyle second.
This impacts me... how?

DAVID JOHNSTON
Opinion Editor



MIKE KENDRICK

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Crowded classrooms: not really a new concept

QUESTION: What is capable of holding more than it can contain?

- (a) A woman's girdle
- (b) An ETS bus at rush hour
- (c) A can of sardines
- (d) A Volkswagen
- (e) A Sociology class in the Tory Lecture Theatre

Answer: (e) A number of students who read this letter will know what I am referring to. In my Criminology class in TL-11, I find it next to impossible to locate a vacant seat two minutes after the class starts. I am expected to sit on the floor or in the aisles. I noticed on Monday morning of this week that TL-12 was even more cramped than TL-11. The aisle was virtually blocked—what would the fire marshall have to say about that? What does the Department of Sociology have to say about that? I await their reply in the *Gateway*.

DENNIS CROCKETT
27 September, 1973

A pocketful of change

Yet unpublished research on the dollar change machine in CAB (other machines may give varying results):

- Knowing what would be returned for a dollar bill, I carefully inserted a fiver. It produced four quarters while four ones fluttered to the floor.
- A ten-spot took a few tries, but finally the machine produced a steak, fried potatoes and five dol-

lars in quarters. Well worth the money, if a bit cumbersome.

- My twenty was gobbled up instantly and the lady who fills the chip and coffee machines came out and gave me a haircut.
- I still had a dollar left so I wrote on it "please give me bus change—not four quarters." It gave me only eighty-five cents!

This research was done at noon and many people were lined up behind me. Such research does hamper the normal functioning of many people in society and may actually be unethical. It is my hope, however, that this research can go on unthwarted. Of course, appropriate groups will be lobbied for more funding.

PAUL CHELL
17 November, 1983

Odes to commodes

I often think that we university students set our standards too high. We pass off too many beautiful things around us as commonplace.

The other day I was in a university washroom, looking at a toilet. It wasn't an outstanding or different toilet, just a plain functional one. But how many people saw its stark lines, its shiny, stainless steel handle, with its little eddies, mad whorls of light throwing out a sanitary challenge to the world? Who realizes that the toilet was designed for contemplation? How many of us these days stand and watch the maelstrom of roaring human drama revealed before us in the toilet bowl? Do we see the whirlpool of force, the wall of water sweeping, as it were, the paper order of man's life away. As the poet asks us:

"Where is the man without a soul
Mirrored in the toilet bowl?"

I am, alas, forced to conclude that only I and a few others appreciate the beauty in these so-called mundane things. Others are content to utter platitudes and spew triteness in the wind about these beauties. I can only hope and pray that in time more and more people will appreciate the overflowing beauty of such things as the common university can.

Flushed with success, I am, sir.

'MCBOWELL'
5 November, 1963

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the *Gateway* runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just ironically hilarious.

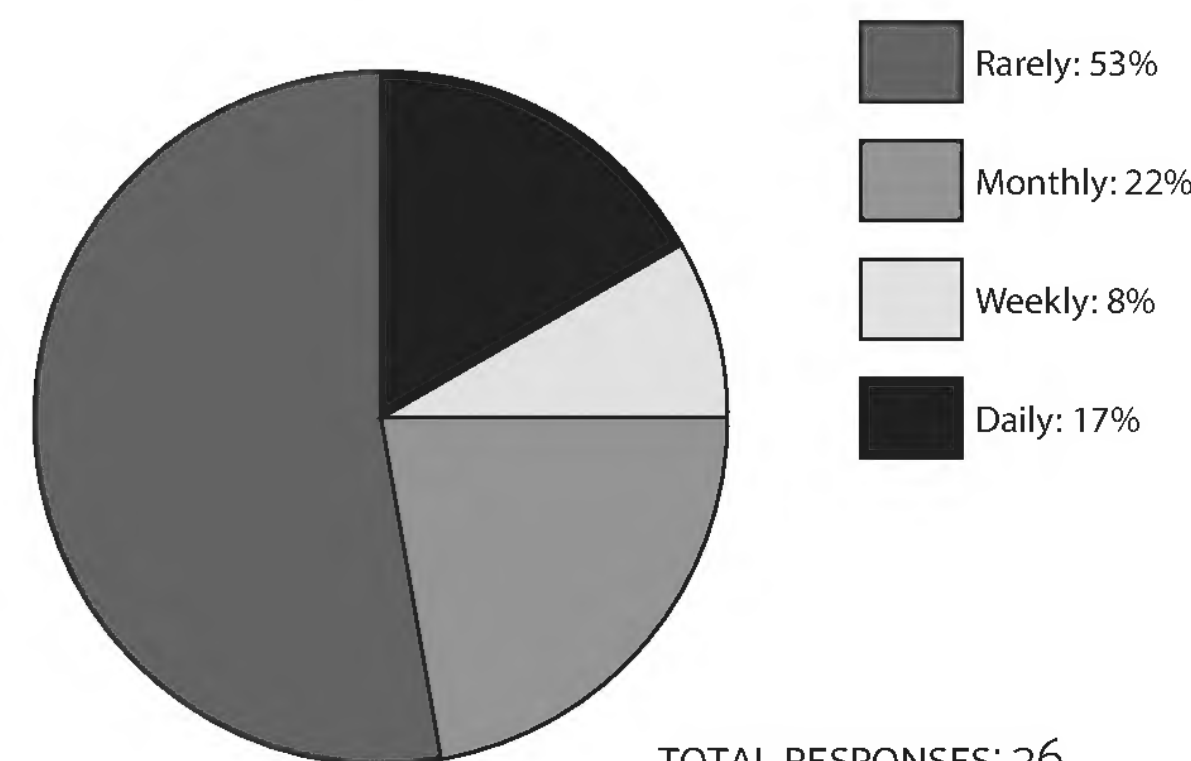
Of course, we also like to run some letters from the everyman student of today, so if you want to air your id about anything in particular, then letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

readerpoll

"How often do you plan to use the new LRT extension to South Campus?"



TOTAL RESPONSES: 36

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

"What's your favourite blockbuster movie of the summer so far?"

vote online at thegatewayonline.ca

EPCOR sale renews the Conservative energy debate



JASON
LUK

Beyond that, though, the roots of these issues were not exposed: the provincial Conservative party.

The misguided outrage is understandable. After all, we are the city that has been publicly agonizing over the future of the City Centre Airport for over a decade, with no end in sight. Even with the recent transfer of our only waste-water treatment plant from direct city ownership to EPCOR, city council pandered to us by allowing months of public input. Our mayor even consoled us by reminding us that they wouldn't be sold. Unlike most decisions in Edmonton, the EPCOR sale was swift to avoid public bickering.

Fortunately, many of Edmonton's more astute commentators were able to point out two critical factors: first, that the sale was likely necessary for EPCOR to thrive, and second, that the insulting

secrecy is beneficial for these kinds of sensitive negotiations, to avoid devaluing the assets for sale. No one, however, has gone further to examine how we have arrived to this inevitability.

Realistically, EPCOR is a bit player in the power generation game. Building new facilities requires massive investments from a small company—particularly when their future depends on ridiculously expensive carbon-captured gasified coal projects to meet new emissions standards. The lack of investment in transmission infrastructure across the province leaves EPCOR few options for growth, other than replacing its own aging coal plants with costly new ones. Without the ability to raise cash from investors, they'd struggle to survive in this high-stakes market.

Deregulation of Alberta's power market in 2003 further left EPCOR

vulnerable. Unlike the situations surrounding BC Hydro in the west and SaskPower in the east, selling power in Alberta is a free-for-all. In those cases, power plants are built with long-term contracts to ensure revenue. Pop up a plant here, and pray the power prices for the next 30 years are nice to you, right? And billion-dollar gambles are fine for an obese base of investors, but absurd if the only shareholder is a city the size of Edmonton.

Our tiny tax base, in fact, is exactly why city council gambled their jobs to make this landmark deal in darkness. These councilors could hardly be labeled as typical free-market thumping Albertans—they had to make an arduous decision to prop up the city coffers in the short term with what boils down to, essentially, a politically stupid move.

Provinces legislate how municipali-

ties can raise revenues. In Alberta, cities are constrained by property tax pitfalls and occasional handouts—and they're forced to borrow cash for infrastructure. Coupled with the Alberta's hands-off approach to regional cooperation, this means surrounding suburban towns help grind Edmonton's infrastructure to dust, while the big city foots the entire bill. Edmonton is forced to sell off our assets for short term benefits—the sale of Ed Tel to Telus, the shambles of South Edmonton Common—to supplement the massive costs of running a functional city.

It's naive to simply blame this sale on shady politicians, or write it off as inevitable. The despicable optics of this move reeks of desperation, but are, in actuality, a mere symptom of the ideologically driven structures of the complacent provincial Tories.

Holiday war stories: tales from the trenches of road trips and vacations



OPINION
STAFF

Group
Commentary

We've all been there: childhood summer vacations that go horribly awry in a diasastrous, yet humorous fashion. Be it running out of gas eight miles from a station, or a mistimed arrival in the midst of a killer bee panic, we've compiled a collection of the craziest calamities to captivate our crew of copyists.

Mike Chafe: Hong Kong, China

This summer, I set out to fulfill one of

my childhood dreams, though there was less digging than I envisioned. After fourteen hours in the air I was raring to get through customs and enter the land of bootleg merchandise and large walls of historic significance. My companions were all quickly hustled through the large, scary customs station and only I was left. Smiling politely, I swiftly handed over my passport and travel visa to the woman behind the desk. She immediately grabbed her radio, and faster you can say "closet communist," two large, burly agents were at my side.

I was informed my identity was in question, as I did not look like my passport photo. Probably because this photo was taken almost five years ago, in my rebellious phase; back then, my

morals were loose and my hair was long. What a rebel I was. After being escorted aside and questioned for several minutes, I was deemed a non-risk, and was allowed to enter the country. However, the People's Republic of China highly recommended I invest in a new passport. No way, man—those are like, ninety bucks. That kind of investment could traumatize a guy.

Cody Civiero: Disney World, USA

I must have been about four when my family first went to Disney World, and although my cerebrum wasn't developed enough to provide a satisfactory first-hand account, my parents recall the ordeal rather well. They, along with my little brother, and myself, had made the 2721km trek from Winnipeg to

Orlando, pursuing the dream.

Between promises of five beautiful golf courses, four massive theme parks, three luxurious restaurants, two incredible water parks, and a partridge in a pear tree, our parents were confident we would find something to love. Which my little brother did, seconds after strolling through the gates of the Magic Kingdom, reacting in awe and excitement. My parents smiled in contentment. At least, until they realized the sole source of his pleasure: a water fountain.

"Water fountain, water fountain!" He jumped up and down in joy. My parents stood there, faces frozen, trying in vain not to think about how much money they'd spent to get us there.

And for what it's worth, Disney World had excellent water fountains.

David Johnston: Inuvik, Canada

The Dempster Highway is a 736km long stretch of potholes, dirt and sharp mountain curves. It's treacherous, unmaintained, has exactly one town in the middle (Eagle Plains. Population: 19) and is the only way to reach Inuvik, Canada's literal gateway into the Arctic Circle. It's the kind of road that you expect to get a free commemorative T-shirt for surviving.

So you have to feel bad for my dad. Three unhelpful adolescents in tow, miles and miles from civilization, our van's rear window has just been shattered by rocks kicked up by the tires, and no end in sight. Looking back today, he laughs about the debacle.

At the time? He just cried. And swore. And looked around for his free T-shirt.

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THE LONG ROAD TO



WRITTEN BY NICK FROST AND KELSEY TANASIUK
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PETE YEE

As unpleasant as the reality is, cancer is something that affects most people in one way or another—either someone you know has likely suffered from or died as a result of it, or perhaps you’ve had a brush with it yourself. Every so often, though, an individual or a group will stand out from the general population and lead the charge towards putting an end to it. 24 years ago, Dr Gordy Klatt was one of those people.

A colorectal surgeon from Tacoma, Washington, Klatt sought to increase local funding for cancer research by running solo on a track for 24 hours. Realizing the daunting nature of continuous running for such a long period of time, however, he began recruiting others to join him as the years went on and more funds

were raised—before long, the idea spread further than even Dr Klatt could’ve imagined, and became the Relay for Life, an event held annually by both the American and Canadian Cancer Societies.

“He was just tired of seeing so many patients suffering with cancer, so what he did was he decided to run on a track for 24 hours,” Relay for Life Edmonton chairperson Christine McCourt explained. “He would take a break about every hour, but he was pretty exhausted by the end of it and decided that the next year, he was going to need a team to do it with him. The next year, it evolved into teams and that was the inception of Relay for Life.”

Now in its eighth year in Edmonton and eleventh across Canada, more than 525

communities nationwide take part in the event—which takes place over a twelve-hour period, running through the middle of the night—raising upwards of \$5–10 million annually. This year, an estimated 1600 participants, survivors, and volunteers took to the track at Foote Field with an ambitious goal providing the motivation to walk and run.

“Ideally, we’d like to hit the \$500 000 mark,” McCourt said. “We know that because of the economy, donations are down and they’re down across the country as we expected. Initial numbers that I’ve seen from all of our online and offline fundraising participants [...] was in the \$3 hundred-thousands. And then, of course, we factor in all our additional sponsorship for the event itself.”



This year, a team of current Gateway editors and volunteers sacrificed our Saturday night and a good night’s sleep to participate in the Relay for Life and play a small role in supporting a noble cause among such a tight-knit community. Team leader Kelsey Tanasiuk, with her captain’s log close at hand, kept track of the experience.

6:30pm

Members of our team get to Foote Field and immediately feel like we should have arrived here an hour earlier. The track around the field, and the field itself are teeming with activity; people are talking, laughing, and setting up tents. There’s a bouncy castle, face-painting, and sponsor booths surrounding the track, and a large stage set up on one corner. When we meet at our empty campsite, I realize I’ve forgotten our blank pledge envelopes and we find that no one actually remembered to bring a tent or our Gateway banner. We’re off to a stellar start.

7:02pm

The relay starts with the survivors’ lap. Every registered cancer survivor takes to the track behind the large ‘Celebrate’ banner. They all wear daffodil-yellow t-shirts, unlike the regular white-clad participants and the volunteers in peacock blue. It’s strangely unsettling to look at a crowd and know exactly who among the faces has battled cancer, but watching the

lap, it doesn’t seem so bad—they all seem so full of joy and exuberance about the night before them. As they round towards the finish line, the rest of the teams join in. We begin our walk in the sunshine surrounded by other relayers eager to get things underway. Online Editor Lucas Wagner returns victorious with the Gateway banner in tow, our tent is on the way, and the smiling volunteers have provided us with a few pledge envelopes. Things are looking up.

9:15pm

Dinner time has arrived, and the relayers descend upon it like locusts. The food selection is soon picked over.

10:32pm

The luminary ceremony—postponed a half hour or so, until the sun has finally retired for the night—finally begins. A teary speech from Christine McCourt is followed by a sweet-faced girl with a yellow t-shirt walking on stage with a guitar in hand. She tells us that she’s been cancer-free for five months and cheerfully jokes about her hair growing back. But when she plays a song she wrote upon overhearing her neighbour in the cancer ward being told that “there was nothing more they could do,” the air seems to thicken with emotion. If you take one good look around, you can tell how much the girl’s story and song are affecting the crowd. Then RCMP’s drum and

pipe band plays and the luminaries (tea lights inside white paper bags dedicated to lives lost) are lit to the swell of music. During the lap of silence, we move past people stopped on the track, consoling each other as they shed a few tears. It’s sad and difficult to watch, but there’s a certain proud strength behind the relayers now. It seems as if everyone at Foote Field just got a bit more determined.

12:15am

The midnight lunch sneaks up on us. We’ve been at the relay for five hours now, but it feels closer to three. We’re doing well but bad ankles and other troubled joints are starting to be mentioned. The night’s starting to get cool, too. A few costume changes are required to keep warm.

2:45am

A few of us sit on the bleacher to take a break, talk, and watch the relayers go by. I find that I’m starting to get sleepy, my head dropping and jerking myself awake. I refuse to succumb to sleep and miss something exciting, though. I put on my headphones and jog for a while. Staying awake and alert isn’t as hard as it should be. When you’re surrounded by masses of people who are awake, talking, and walking, your brain seems to forget that it’s past your bedtime. The energy of the crowd comes from feeding off of each others’ activity.



4:38am

The sun is poking up behind a thick line of clouds on the horizon. More subtle a sunrise than what I’d hoped for, but it’s daybreak none the less. Breakfast is right around the corner and we find a buffet filled with waffles, eggs, fresh fruit and, most importantly, bacon. We eat, but then I start to doze off at our table. Time to get up and move again.

6:15am

We start to pack up our tent, shoving things into our bags like curiously well-prepared zombies. Conversation has slowed, but we aren’t done just yet. Back on the track, our laps take significantly longer than they did in the beginning, between exhaustion and limping. No one said this would be easy.

7:34am

Relay for Life ends with the Fight Back talk. People start to clear out, too tired for speeches and the sound of Destiny’s Child. The organizers invite people up to the stage to tell everyone how they’re going to fight back. It soon shifts to survivors coming up to thank the participants and talk about their battles with the disease we’re all there to fight. With the exhaustion, it’s hard to react much to the speeches. But somehow, despite everything, you can still feel the pride welling up in your aching body when someone out of sight thanks you for walking for them all night.

Bears' defensive end Whelan signs contract with Eskimos

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Staff

Greg Whelan may be swapping one green and gold uniform for another this summer.

The Edmonton Eskimos training camp will open on Saturday, 6 June, and Whelan—a U of A linebacker and long-snapper—will be there with them, vying for a spot on the team.

"I'm definitely excited," Whelan said. "I've been playing football for seven years, and to get an opportunity to play at that level is great."

The invitation to training camp doesn't guarantee that he'll make the CFL team's final roster, but Whelan is optimistic. As a non-import player, he already has a step up compared to comparable players from the United States.

"I think my chances are pretty decent, especially because I'm Canadian," Whelan said. "I think if I am picked up, it will be more so for special teams duty, and perhaps there's an off chance of being a back-up long-snapper."

Whelan was a defensive end for the Bears the past two years, and has only recently switched to the linebacker's role in preparation for the upcoming CIS season.

Golden Bears head coach Jerry Friesen thinks that Whelan's diverse resumé will count in his favour at training camp.

"I think the biggest thing that he brings to the table at the professional level is that he's a long-snapper; he's a specialist," Friesen said. "That's a trade that all of the teams look at. He can bring that to the table, and it's a great opportunity for him."

"He's an outstanding athlete—probably one of the most powerful athletes on our football team. He's a fearless player on the field, [and] his motor runs continually. He never gives up."

According to Eskimos head scout Ed Hervey, that boundless energy on the field was one of the reasons Whelan caught the Eskimos' eye.

"Greg's an intense competitor who plays the game fast and hard-nosed, and is willing to pay the price on every play," Hervey said.

If Whelan's not selected to Edmonton's roster at the end of training camp, he has the option to return to the Bears to finish his last year of CIS eligibility.

"That's the good part about it. He has a chance



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

SAME COLOURS, HIGHER EXPECTATIONS Greg Whelan (50) will try out for the Eksks this summer.

now [to go] to the Eskimos camp, and do really well and get paid to play football, and that's really awesome," Friesen said. "Or if he comes back and he has the chance to hone some of his skills to take him back to that next level—because he's still got one more year to build at our program. It's the best of two worlds, there."

Whelan is the third U of A player to get recruited by a CFL club so far this summer. At the CFL draft in May, the Hamilton Tiger Cats made Alberta offensive lineman Simeon Rottier the first pick overall, while Edmonton chose his linemate Gord Hinse as their first choice (eleventh overall). They have since signed Hinse to a four-year contract.

"I think it just shows the quality of players that are in the Golden Bears program," Friesen said.

"When we take a look at our program, if there's an opportunity for one of our players to take their game to another level, then that's one of the things we want to make sure can happen."

While Friesen acknowledged that the CFL's gain could be Alberta's loss, he's happy to see his players move up in the world of football.

"If our players are good enough, and have an opportunity to go to the next level, then absolutely we wouldn't want to slow that process down."

And he's not worried about starting the 2009 season without him.

"We are even now in the recruiting process, and we want to make sure that we're recruiting to replace Greg, because we know he would only be here for one more year anyway."

Facendi to coach field hockey for '09/10 year

NICK FROST
Managing Editor



After closing out the 2008 CIS regular season with a silver medal performance at nationals, Pandas field hockey will have a new look in 2009 as head coach Carla Duncan will not be at

the helm—however, only temporarily. It was announced in early May that the veteran bench boss will spend next season on maternity leave, and will hand over the clipboard to assistant coach and former player Andrea (AJ) Facendi on an interim basis.

The experience will serve as an interesting, new challenge for the 25 year old native of Stony Plain, Alberta. Facendi comes into the position as the sixth coach in the program's history, and having been with U of A women's field hockey for eight years—five of which were spent on the field with the Pandas, and the last three as an assistant coach under Duncan's regime. She's also an active member of the University of Alberta's Powerlifting Association, and was a participant at the 2008 Canadian Powerlifting Union Championships in St. Catherines, Ontario.

In a release from U of A Athletics, Facendi expressed confidence that, despite the change, next year would see a "smooth transition for the current players and coaching staff."

Meanwhile, Duncan—who will spend the next year taking care of her newest bundle of joy—has been the head coach of the Pandas since 2002/03, and is expected to return in time for 2010. She currently sports a 25–37–13 record against conference opponents, along with a CIS Championship win in 2005/06 and a second-place finish against the Victoria Vikes just this past year.



FILE PHOTO: SAM BROOKS

MAKE WAVES Bears swimmer Brian Yakiwchuk will represent Canada in Serbia.

Two Alberta swimmers to compete at '09 Universiade

NICK FROST
Managing Editor

Having not had any representation in the last three Universiades, the University of Alberta swim team will make a splash this year with two of its strongest up-and-comers. Pandas standout Kayla Voytechek and Golden Bear Brian Yakiwchuk—now entering their second and third years respectively—will accompany the national contingent across the Atlantic at the beginning of July, as Team Canada prepares for the 25th Summer Universiade in Belgrade, Serbia.

Voytechek, now approaching her second season with the Pandas, made huge strides in her rookie season towards establishing herself as a presence within Canada's varsity scene. Perhaps her biggest accomplishment

of 2009 was earning a silver medal at the CIS Championship in the 50m breaststroke, behind only Olympian and world-record holder Annamay Pierse. The Lethbridge native has also found success in the pool recently at the Mel Zajac International event, finishing with a bronze in the 50m breaststroke, once again behind Pierse, as well as American Olympic silver medallist Megan Jendrick.

Meanwhile, Yakiwchuk—a long-distance swimmer—comes into the Universiade with two CIS medals to his credit. The Prince George, British Columbia native collected a bronze medal and silver medal in 2008 and 2009 respectively, both in the 1500m freestyle.

"It's a pretty big step as part of the resurgence of the Pandas and Bears swim teams," Alberta head coach Bill

Humby said. "It's been a long time since the program has had athletes involved on an international level. It's got the team thinking about much higher goals and given them a much bigger vision of where they can get to in the sport."

"There's a big world out there beyond the CIS and, from my perspective, it's added another exciting element to present to our recruits as well. It's not just talk about being part of the Canadian team—we have athletes doing it now."

The 2009 national squad will travel with one of its largest combined teams ever, as 42 swimmers—20 women and 22 men—will wear the red and white in the pool for Canada, and will look to improve upon the four gold medals earned at the 2007 Games in Bangkok, Thailand.

NY Islanders facing tough decision with first overall pick

Tavares isn't just a gifted hockey player—he's also not European



JOHN
KEOHANE

point

In every major league sport, the pre-draft prognostication follows a familiar template. First, scouts identify a subset of players considered to be "elite". Next, said players are scrutinized heavily throughout the course of their final amateur season and a general consensus is developed regarding the hierarchy of the eligible draftees, a classification founded on rational analysis and subjective desires. Finally, the entire process is perverted by a two-day novelty spectacle—the NHL combine.

Just how irrelevant is the NHL combine? A rapid Wikipedia search unearths this response: did you mean *NFL* combine?

This season, the most likely victim of combine colitis is the New York Islanders Garth Snow, a former player-turned-GM whose claim to fame thus far in his tenure is the fifteen year, \$67.5 million contract he handed out to Rick DiPietro—a young man who shares knee and hip diagnoses with Bob Barker. Snow, therefore, seems an apt candidate for an acute case of draft diarrhea.

Now, in contrast to what I'm sure is Nick's fluidly-crafted, conscientiously-prepared exposition of the advantages of Victor Hedman and the pitfalls of John Tavares, I have elected to construct an elaborate smokescreen consisting of combine gripes and Garth Snow's professional ineptitude. Why? Because when all is said and done, my primary motive for campaigning for Tavares boils down to good old-fashioned xenophobia.

Straight up, I prefer North American-born hockey players. I would have been a wonderful

Cold Warrior—point me to the nearest wall and I'll tell someone to take it down.

This is not to devalue the wondrous skill and undeniable impact of European skaters; clearly, the Red Wings are a testament to the puck prowess of the former Eastern Bloc. But I'm swayed by a traditional, gritty style of play, and while Hedman is by all accounts a physical specimen and blessed with uncanny skating ability, show me Matt Greene on a Tuesday in February, and I'll show you six penalty minutes, two blocked shots, and a minus-two rating. Brings a tear to my eye.

So I'm insular and bigoted. Sue me.

My sole argument that doesn't revolve around prejudice and backward thinking concerns reliability—that is, the benefit of a proven commodity. The consensus on Tavares is that his ceiling is relatively modest—at best, 35 to 40 goals a season, a bankable All-Star. Alternatively, his bust probability is low, given his consistent production (Tavares broke Wayne Gretzky's OHL career scoring record) despite intense media scrutiny, dating back to his controversial selection by the Oshawa Generals as a 14-year-old in the OHL Entry Draft.

Tavares has even managed to shine on the brightest of stages, leading Canada to a fifth consecutive championship at the IIHF World Junior's. It is far too seldom that a sure thing rolls around, and a floundering franchise like the Islanders may never recover from the disgrace of bypassing an opportunity to drastically alter course with a consensus top pick. Victor, thou aren't my Swede.



Hedman poised to replicate success of towering NHL blueliners



NICK
FROST

counterpoint

Ladies and gentlemen, a round of applause for Mr Don Cherry!

Honestly John, if I'm an Islanders fan—and with the amount of crazy currently swirling around that smoldering heap of a franchise, thank God I'm not—there is but one thing I'm hoping Garth Snow doesn't do come 26 June, and that's develop a case of short-sightedness. That means not dealing the first-overall pick to Toronto for spare parts or anything else that isn't named

Luke Schenn, and—more importantly—not letting something trivial like drafting a European get in the way. If he has any sense of what's best for his team's chances to ascend in the standings, he'll select Victor Hedman with the top pick in the NHL Entry Draft.

Every so often, a blueliner comes around that seemingly has the vision and capability to shrug off the shackles of that oppressive "number-one defenceman" label, and achieve a moniker with enough raw power and palpable swagger to make the *Dos Equis* guy seem like just another senile, old coot: "franchise defenceman."

Okay, so my description might be just a bit

overzealous. Nevertheless, nearly everything about Hedman, at this very moment, would lead one to believe that he's the kind of player to build a team around: he's got enough size to trump the NHL's elite; his surprising speed allows him to join the rush and backcheck with ease; and he's already displaying his talents in Sweden's pro league *Elitserien*.

If there's one thing to fault Hedman for, despite his size, it's that he doesn't throw his weight around and rub people out of the play like a Zdeno Chara-type would, as indicated by his seemingly tentative defensive performances at this year's World Junior Championship. But keep in mind, the kid's only 18 years old—anything he doesn't already possess can be taught.

And for a team that already has forwards Josh Bailey and Kyle Okposo manning the front lines, the smart move is to add a solid battering ram on the back-end. People are overhyping John Tavares as part of this sudden onslaught of generational talent that started in 2004 with Alexander Ovechkin (and apparently isn't about to stop until Taylor Hall is drafted in 2010, as far as I can tell) that's going to come into the league fresh out of the gate and immediately put up the type of numbers you'd expect from a poor-man's Mario Lemieux, that's simply not going to happen (see: Steven Stamkos).

Sure, he broke Gretzky's OHL scoring record, and I applaud him for doing so. However, let's not forget that current Red Wings forward Daniel Cleary, like many others, once had a 115-point season in Junior-A and now assumes a role as Detroit's clutch playoff performer, with no more than 42 points in any regular season. That isn't to say that Tavares is going follow down the same path; however, to dub him as a guaranteed superstar at this point is simply a tad presumptuous.

Therefore, if the Islanders want an *actual* safe bet on draft day, they'll choose Hedman, and to the Victor will go the spoils.



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SPORTS EDITOR

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Sports Editor* for the 2009/2010 publishing year.

The term runs to 30 April 2010. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. In its full-time capacity, the salary for the position is \$1332.06 per month.



Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager Asia Szkudlarek (780-492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)**.

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THE GATEWAY

* Complete job description (subject to change) is available at gsjs.gateway.ualberta.ca.

Laugh your inhibitions off at the Improvaganza festival

festivalpreview

Improvaganza

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SARAH MALIK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Rapid Fire Theatre has been hosting and organizing *Improvaganza* for nearly ten years straight and their continued focus on improvised comedy is hardly accidental. As Kevin Gillese, the creative director of the company, points out improv is very much an Alberta tradition, and the kind of comedy Albertans, and Canadians in general, prefer and are best at.

Over the past few years though, not only has this Edmonton-based comedy festival grown beyond being merely a Canadian affair—it's also expanded to include other non-improvisational types of comedy.

"We've got a full platter of all different forms of comedy this year," Gillese notes. "Improvaganza has really grown from, in the beginning, bringing out only four teams from Canadian towns to having acts from all over contacting us now.

"There's such a range: there's this group from Colombia that is a bunch of trained circus performers, and so they'll be doing a very physical

style of comedy, but then we're also bringing out a *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* alum and his theatre will be doing a very classic style. And I'm excited about a sketch group called the Picnic Face, who are famous for their YouTube videos."

Having seen hundreds of different comedic acts, Gillese finds it especially important that each performance brings something new to the table, even if audiences rarely realize that some material is stale and overdone. For Gillese, what makes a comedy act really impressive is not just when it meets the usual criteria of "unique and original", but when the comedian is able to establish a connection with the audience, either through their honesty about their own lives or by taking a more creative approach.

"When you realize that there's something deeper going on than just the jokes, that's amazing. You're laughing, but you also end up getting more out of it," Gillese enthuses.

When asked to give an example, Gillese doesn't take more than a split-second to remember an act that really awed him.

"This June, we're bringing out a company called The National Theater of the World and they do plays. They take different playwrights and improvise on them, emulating the style as well as making a lot of jokes within the show, so not only is it funny, but it's a bit more thought-out than, for example, swearing and telling jokes about sex."

The creative aspect is particularly



SUPPLIED, KJ SAUDE

important for Gillese, considering his own background and ambitions. Anyone who has any familiarity with the Edmonton cultural scene probably knows about Gillese's rise through Rapid Fire Theatre over the years, starting from a bit role when he was in high school to recently becoming the creative director in his mid-twenties. But putting the administrative aspect aside, Gillese has spent the past few years trying on a number of different hats, not only doing his own comedy with

his group Scratch, but also making films and exploring different artistic mediums.

"I've been working on cartoons recently, doing voice, and have been doing TV and film for a number of years. I'm getting interested in Internet videos. Aside from that, the last three years, up to eight months every year have been spent touring with my improv partner, doing comedy in Europe, Australia, all over Canada, doing this absurd and bizarre style of comedy."

When asked if the audience can expect the man behind the *Improvaganza* plan to himself take the stage, Gillese is both hopeful and hesitant.

"I wear two hats! It's fun to remember that I'm a comedian myself and jump in at the festival and sort of mix it around, but at the same time I have to run around making sure everything is going okay."

"But," he adds slyly, "I'll definitely be getting up there a few times at least."

Rah Rah raises a glass to eastern Canada, makes plans for new album



SUPPLIED, CARL W HEINDL

musicpreview

Rah Rah

With *Sleepless Nights*, *The Bird Sang Song*, *Kisses of Fire*, and *Tyler Butler*
Wednesday, 24 June at 7pm
The Hydeaway (10209-100 Ave)
\$10 at the door

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Rah Rah's six members may all be proud Saskatchewanians at heart and mention their hometown Regina in a number of their songs, but they're discovering during their first cross-Canada tour that eastern Canada isn't too shabby either. Five of the six bandmates had never been to Newfoundland before, but after only a few days in the Maritimes, the band took to their Twitter page and declared that St John's is "the best place in the world" and "Newfoundland is DEADLY." Of course, the band meant the latter as a compliment, and though Canadian politeness may span coast-to-coast, Rah Rah quickly learned that the case was not the same for slang.

"Joel [Passmore, one of Rah Rah's guitarists] noticed last time that he [...] said 'deadly' that somebody was like, 'Oh, it's not all that bad!' " laughs keyboardist Samra Sahl.

Rah Rah is just beginning their fourth straight week on the road, after a 4 June show in Montreal, but before the band continues their trek out west,

they'll be taking a two-week break to record a new album with producer Kees Dekker, who also worked on Plants and Animals' album *Parc Avenue*. Due to scheduling issues and an unwavering sense of perfectionism, Rah Rah's last album, *Going Steady*, took nearly a year for the group to record. But, with only a two-week time limit, the band is hoping that the pressure will produce a diamond.

"To be honest, I've never seen people get down like they do in St John's [...] It's a city that's a lot smaller than even Regina, but when I was downtown, I could have sworn I was in Toronto."

SAMRA SAHLU
KEYBOARDIST, RAH RAH

"We're all pretty excited because it's going to be a lot different than our last album," says Sahl.

"Our last album was recorded in lots of small pieces [...] We're going to try to do as much as we can in two weeks while we're all in the same studio together, which I think will make for a really energetic sounding album."

The album, which has yet to be titled, marks not only a change in sound for the band, but a change in songwriting. Sahl admits that until recently, vocalist

Marshall Burns was responsible for "the lion's share" of the group's songwriting, but lately, the creative process has become increasingly communal.

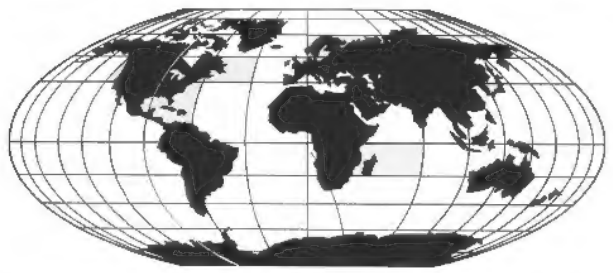
Drawing bandmates from Sylvie, Geronimo, and the now-defunct Despidado, two-thirds of Rah Rah's membership consists of experienced Regina-based musicians. According to Sahl, it was only a matter of time before more members stepped up to share and develop their writing chops. Luckily, the group has managed to evade the "too many cooks in the kitchen" fiasco that plagues, and occasionally dismantles other supergroups.

"I can't think of any disadvantages that come from [being in a supergroup]. If anything, it's our greatest strength to have people like myself and Kristina [Hedlund, violinist] who have never really played in other bands before [...] Then there's Joel and Leif [Thorseth, guitarist] who have so much experience and can lend a hand in building songs, and have such good ears for song construction," explains Sahl.

"[Since] things have become a lot more collaborative, I think that's helped everyone feel a lot more invested in the songs."

Though it'll still be a few weeks before Rah Rah makes the journey back to the prairies, the band admits that the east has set the bar high for audience enthusiasm. Offering a small challenge to the west, Sahl adds, "To be honest, I've never seen people get down like they do in St John's. It was a Thursday night, and it's a city that's a lot smaller than even Regina, but when I was downtown, I could have sworn I was in Toronto [...] It was crazy."

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Sam Raimi's latest will drag you to heck

Drag Me to Hell lacks the fright present in Raimi's well-known *Evil Dead* series

filmreview

Drag Me to Hell

Directed by Sam Raimi
Starring Alison Lohman, Justin Long, Reggie Lee, and Lorna Rever
Now Playing

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Dragging yourself to see a horror movie these days can be a scary experience, but such terrors experienced while watching Sam Raimi's latest film *Drag Me to Hell* were augmented by the fact that the Empire Theatres downtown location is currently under renovation. Corridors of wooden boards make patrons feel like they're inside an abandoned building where the likes of Leatherface or Freddy Krueger await them at the next corner.

Fortunately, watching *Drag Me to Hell* is the least frightening part of the theatre-going experience. While the film features some sparse, cheap scares every few minutes, such thrills are similar to those videos you find on the Internet where a short clip ends with a scary picture and a loud scream. However, those seeking a fun and wacky "horror comedy" will be rewarded.

Drag Me to Hell marks director Sam Raimi's return to the genre that made him famous—his *Evil Dead* series is a staple for horror fans. The film tells the story of Christine Brown (Alison Lohman), a twenty-something bank loans officer with a great boyfriend and a promising future as the next assistant manager of her bank. Standing in the way of Christine's dreams are the efforts of her hyper-competitive co-worker, Stu (Reggie Lee), and a masculine work culture that prevents her from climbing the corporate ladder.

Christine's life becomes a nightmare when she denies a loan to Mrs. Ganush (Lorna Rever), an elderly Gypsy who is on the brink of losing her home. She later succumbs to a supernatural Gypsy spell, which will force her to go to hell in three days, while ghoulish forces make her final days terrifying. Fortunately, Christine receives emotional support from her boyfriend Clay (Justin Long), while relying on the spiritual guidance of a fortune teller named Rham (Dileep Rao), who also assists her battle against the Gypsy's curse.

Drag Me to Hell shares some of the familiar tropes in Raimi's *Evil Dead* trilogy: a cursed protagonist, silly supernatural forces, memorable one-liners, and controversial comedic scenes—specifically in this newest

pic, the sacrifice of a kitten and the shocking mouth-to-mouth desecration of an elderly woman's corpse. Raimi's latest film is fun to watch due to his comedic execution, physical comedy, and computer-generated effects that were never possible during the days of the *Evil Dead* films.

The film also features a fantastic soundtrack, complete with violins and the string-instrumental tracks that were typical of any great horror film from the '70s or '80s. According to the film's credits, an unused theme from *The Exorcist* is even featured.

But *Drag Me to Hell* also has its issues, including blatant product placement—especially with Justin Long's office featuring not one, but two Apple computers. One scene even features a shot of an iPhone in the foreground. The film is also chock-full of ethnic stereotypes: an elderly Gypsy, an East Indian fortune teller, a Latina spiritual medium, and a coniving Asian co-worker—more negative stereotypes than your typical *Star Wars* film.

However, for horror fans wanting a fun time, and loads of laughs, and a refreshing reprieve from the bloodshed and torture of the *Saw* franchise and endless slasher-film remakes, *Drag Me to Hell* is worth dragging yourself to the theatre, even if you have to pay a terrifying ticket price.



Did you know that Betty Cooper has a girl detective alter ego called Nancy Clue? And that redheaded idiot Archie STILL picked Veronica. What a dumbass.



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING
TUESDAY, 2 JUNE

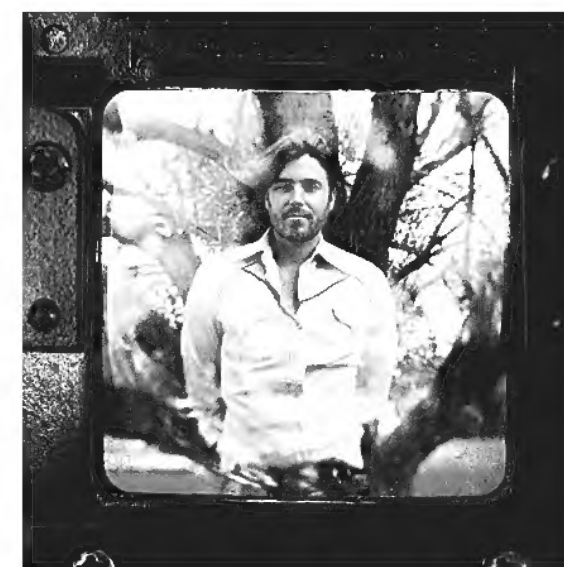
1. MAKEOUT VIDEOTAPE
Heat Wave!
(Independent)

2. ENDANGERED APE
Ape Shall Not Kill Ape
(Mammoth Cave)

3. THE BUMMERS
The Bummers' BBQ
(Independent)

4. PINK MOUNTAINTOPS
Outside Love
(Jagjaguwar)

5. JULIE DOIRON
I Can Wonder What You Did With Your Day
(Endearing)



albumreview

Mark Ceaser
Burma Road
Independent

BETH STORHEIM
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Burma Road is the first solo effort from Saskatoon-based Mark Ceaser (also a member of Sexually Attracted to Fire). At first it's just good-natured country/folk-rock, but the music quickly turns into a gentle melancholy rhapsody of life, love, and longing in the prairies.

If you dig either genre, prepare to be smitten. And even if those aren't your scenes, perhaps Mark Ceaser's infectious lyrics and beautiful guitar playing will win you over anyway.

The album starts off with "Highway 16", an upbeat folk-rock tune about the desire to abandon stagnant prairie life for a highway to the unknown. "Willow Tree" slows the pace a bit with a poignant, tragic love story.

The only fault with this track is the repetition of the words "our willow tree"—it reminds me a little bit of the annoying "na na na"s from The Beatles' "Hey Jude," but with such gorgeous opening instrumentation from Ceaser on the song, all is forgiven.

"Fall Apart" speeds things up again for another safe and steady folk-rock track, with some country leanings. "Heart of Mine" doesn't grab the ear as much as the other tracks—probably because of its gravitation towards pop music—while "Knife and Key" provides a warm, gentle ending to *Burma Road*, and closing with a reverberating amp at the end as a nice touch.

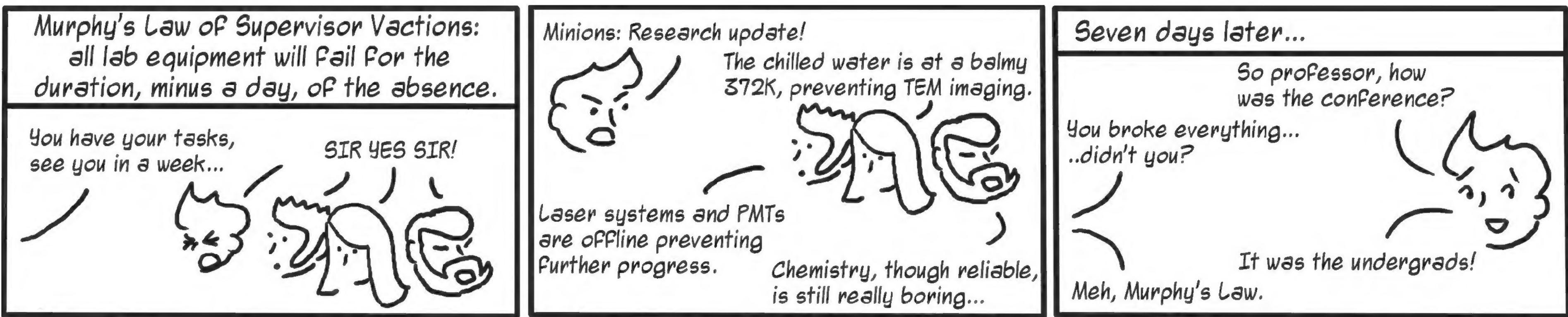
POP & ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



METALEETO by Ross Vincent



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



HEART OF GARNEAU A stroll down 88 Avenue in May as the seasons change. PETE YEE

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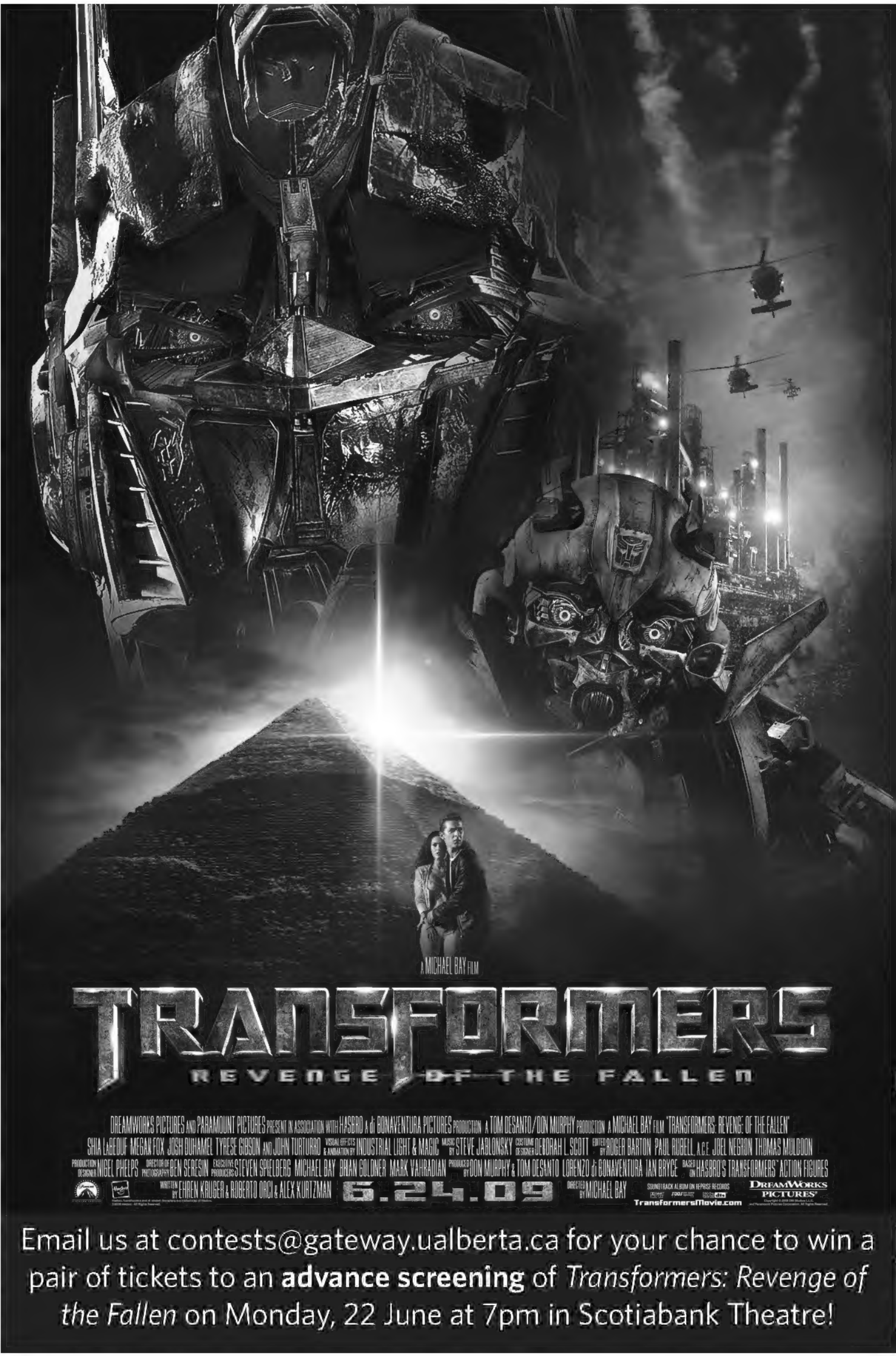
schedule and that will pay you the highest in the industry? If so A Cappella Catering is the place you need to be. We are starting to hire full and part time banquet servers. We pay the highest wage in the industry with gratuities and bonus incentives. A valid drivers license is required. Come join the many U of A Students currently working here. Email your resume to kims@acappella.ab.ca. PT help for a small SW law office. Kindly provide your availability and resume by fax (424-4242) or e-mail to adorczak@telus.net

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AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

There once was a wise old man. The man lived on the side of a tall mountain. His home was carved the rock itself. Inside there a huge kitchen. It ran for miles. The counter carved smooth out of granite, the oven heated by the glowing lava buried deep in the rock. In the kitchen, the man poured rainshowers into jars and cooked up cool autumn mornings. One April day, he made a very special recipe. He added two litres of sunshine, a handful of lazy afternoons and just a pinch of dark, prairie thunderstorms. But the old man got busy, and he left the mixture on his counter. April passed. May passed. Finally, at the beginning of June, the old man remembered the mixture. He put it in his oven. He baked it. He mailed it away with a note. "Dear Edmonton: sorry it's late. Enjoy."



Email us at contests@gateway.ualberta.ca for your chance to win a pair of tickets to an advance screening of Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen on Monday, 22 June at 7pm in Scotiabank Theatre!

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